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X-FORCE

WORLD TOUR
FUTURE IMPERFECT

Previously in EXILES:

Gathered together from their own separate realities, BLINK, SABRETOOTH, MORPH, LONGSHOT, SPIDER-MAN 2099, POWER PRINCESS and HEATHER HUDSON risk their lives to save one imperiled Earth after another. From their headquarters in the "Crystal Palace"—an alien observatory outside space and time overlooking the countless realities that make up the Multiverse—the Exiles undertake their world-saving missions and often pay a terrible price.

Such was the case when they encountered the body-snatching, reality-warping mutant codenamed PROTEUS. After murdering Blink's boyfriend Mimic, Proteus used his own nearly limitless powers to jump to other universes in search of new victims. The Exiles have pursued him ever since.

In the futuristic world of 2099, Proteus took over the invulnerable body of HULK 2099 and used its massive power to fend off an attack by the Exiles. He then traveled to a world where nuclear wars nearly wiped out all of existence and the people that remain are ruled by another Hulk—a brutal, intelligent Hulk, called MAESTRO. The Exiles, though, were one step ahead of Proteus and told Maestro that Proteus would be coming. However, during the melee that soon broke out, the Exiles accidentally attacked Maestro. And as the Exiles are about to find out, no one likes Maestro when he's angry!

Exiles (ISSN #1540-0964) No. 80, July, 2006. Published Monthly except semi-monthly in February, March, July and August by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2006 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40668537. **Printed in the USA.** Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. $27.00; Canada $37.00; Foreign $39.00. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO Exiles, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 30520 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84130-0520. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158. FAX # (801) 208-0677. subscriptions@marvelsubs.com. AVI ARAD, Chief Creative Officer; ALAN FINE, President & CEO Of Marvel Toys and Marvel Publishing, Inc.; DAVID BOGART, VP Of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Managing Editor; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Maimone, Advertising Director, at jmaimone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

"CONGRATULATIONS, IT'S A **BLOB.**"

I WAS BORN WITH FULL-BLOWN MUTANT POWERS--AN EIGHT-POUND LUMP OF WHITE **GOO** THAT CRIED LIKE A BABY AND FLOWED LIKE MERCURY.

I FIGURED OUT AS A TODDLER THAT MY PARENTS WERE HAPPIER IF I KEPT A NORMAL HUMAN SHAPE. AND I'M NOTHING IF NOT EAGER TO PLEASE.

BY THE TIME I STARTED SCHOOL, I'D PERFECTED THE ALL-AMERICAN BOY-NEXT-DOOR LOOK.

BUT AT HOME, ALONE WITH MY FOLKS, I'D RELAX AND JUST BE **ME.**

I WASN'T BEING A PHONY, OR ASHAMED OF WHO I WAS. IT WAS SIMPLY LESS **AWKWARD** THAT WAY.

I HAD A KNACK FOR BEING WHAT EVERYONE WANTED.

EVERYTHING CAME EASY FOR ME. SCHOOL, SPORTS, FRIENDS...

AND THEN **MOM** DIED OF LUNG CANCER WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN. THERE WAS NOTHING EASY ABOUT THAT.

IT **BROKE** DAD. HE JUST GOT SO...**SERIOUS,** AND THE HARDER I TRIED TO CHEER HIM UP, THE MORE HE WITHDREW.

MY CLOWNING AROUND FINALLY GOT SO OVER-THE-TOP THAT DAD PACKED ME OFF TO BOARDING SCHOOL. AT LEAST HE PICKED THE RIGHT ONE.

YEARS LATER, I ACTUALLY EARNED A MASTERS IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING AT ***XAVIER'S***. SOMETIMES PEOPLE FORGET THEY REALLY ARE A ***SCHOOL***.

XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS

I ALSO EARNED A UNIFORM AND A CODENAME: ***MORPH***, LEADER OF XAVIER'S JUNIOR SUPER-TEAM, THE ***NEW MUTANTS***.

NOW, ***THOSE*** KIDS APPRECIATED A GOOD LAUGH.

NEXT, I GRADUATED TO FULL-FLEDGED ***X-MEN*** STATUS.

I WAS EVEN A BELOVED MEMBER OF ***THE AVENGERS***. I GOT MORE FAN MAIL THAN CAPTAIN AMERICA!

ALL OF IT CAME SO EASY...

...UNTIL THE DAY I GOT *DRAFTED* INTO AN ALTERNATE-UNIVERSE REPAIR SQUAD CALLED *THE EXILES*...AND NOTHING'S BEEN EASY EVER SINCE.

HRAHHRR!

=WHUNG=

WORLD TOUR
FUTURE IMPERFECT

PART 2 OF 2

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=ARH!=

AND THAT'S OUR VERSION OF *SPIDER-MAN*. WE PICKED HIM UP A COUPLE OF UNIVERSES AGO.

I HARDLY KNOW THE GUY, BUT I'D HATE TO SEE HIM GO *JACKSON POLLOCK* ALL OVER THE WALL.

THE EVIL HULK THERE CALLS HIMSELF *THE MAESTRO*. WE WARNED HIM THAT *PROTEUS* WAS COMING TO STEAL HIS BODY.

NATURALLY, HE ENDS UP TRYING TO *KILL* US.

WE *ALWAYS* END UP FIGHTING ALL THE WRONG PEOPLE. THE *LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES* WAS WRITTEN JUST FOR US...

SKRAK-K-K

CASE IN POINT--OUR RUNNING BATTLE WITH ***PROTEUS***. WE START OUT TRYING TO REUNITE A FAMILY AND END UP FACING THE SCARIEST MUTANT ***EVER***.

HE'S A SERIAL KILLER WHO STEALS PEOPLE'S BODIES AND USES THEM UP, ONE AFTER THE OTHER. HIS ONLY WEAKNESS IS ***METAL***.

PROTEUS RIPPED OUT THE ***HEART*** OF OUR TEAM WHEN HE SNATCHED ***MIMIC'S*** BODY AND LEFT IT A DEAD, DRIED-OUT HUSK.

AFTER THAT, HEATHER CAME UP WITH THE BRIGHT IDEA OF IMPLANTING A STRIP OF ***SURGICAL STEEL*** IN OUR SKULLS TO KEEP PROTEUS ***OUT***.

OF COURSE, ***I*** DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE A SKULL--OR BONES, FOR THAT MATTER--SO I JUST SHOVED A CHUNK OF ***METAL*** DEEP INTO MY SILLY-PUTTY HEAD.

ANYHOW, WE'VE CHASED PROTEUS ACROSS ***FIVE*** REALITIES, FROM ONE STOLEN BODY TO THE NEXT.

HIS LATEST "SHELL" BELONGED TO THE ***HULK OF 2099 A.D.*** IT'S BEEN HIS LONGEST-LASTING, MOST DANGEROUS FORM YET.

YOU ACTUALLY TRIED TO SCRATCH ME? DON'T YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I AM?!

=urk=

HA!

EH?

WHAT HAVE I DONE--?

AW, DID PRECIOUS VAPORIZE HER LITTLE FRIEND?

...OR SOMEWHERE EVEN *WORSE.*

I...

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

BLINK

WHO'S *NEXT?*

...UNH...

...SAVE A DANCE FOR ME...

...*HKK*=... HARD TO... BREATHE...

YOU'VE GOT INTERNAL INJURIES. *STAY PUT.*

SPIDEY ACTUALLY *VOLUNTEERED* TO JOIN OUR TEAM, WHICH, FOR A GENIUS SCIENTIST, WAS NOT THE *SMARTEST* MOVE.

MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE *WARNED* HIM THAT IF IT WEREN'T FOR BAD LUCK, WE'D HAVE NO LUCK AT ALL.

THOOM

LUCK IS WHAT LONGSHOT IS SUPPOSED TO BRING TO THE TEAM...

...BUT YOU HAVE TO BE RIGHT NEXT TO HIM FOR ANY TO RUB OFF.

BLOONK

C-CAN YOU... H-HEAR ME... MISTER CREED...?

P-PLEASE DON'T DIE...!

÷...hkk... k-k...÷

ISN'T THAT SWEET?

THWAK

+WHUNG+

GET YUIR BOGGIN' HANDS OFF MY GIRL!

IT TAKES ME HALF A SECOND TO REMEMBER WHY PROTEUS WOULD SAY THAT.

HE STILL CARRIES THE STOLEN MEMORIES OF EVERYONE HE EVER BODY-SNATCHED, INCLUD NG MIMIC.

HE MAY BE DEAD, BUT HIS LOVE FOR BL NK WAS STRONG ENOUGH THAT T JUST SAVED HER LIFE

ARRHH!

YOU MAY BE THE FIRST MAN I EVER KILL WITH MY ELBOWS...

WAIT.

YE HAVE TAE HIT ME FIRST!

THE EXILES TOLD ME YOUR WEAKNESS, PROTEUS!

IF THE MAESTRO CAN KILL PROTEUS, THEN LET HIM.

IF NOT, AT LEAST THEY'LL WEAR EACH OTHER DOWN.

THAT'S BETTER...

WHAT... ?mff?...ARE YOU DOING?

NOTHIN' YE CANNAE RECOVER FROM... EVENTUALLY

...CAN'T...

...CAN'T MOVE...!

YUIR SPINE'LL HEAL, MATE, BUT BY THEN IT'LL BE ME IN YUIR SKIN.

COURSE, THOSE TIN SLEEVES OF YUI'RS WILL HAVE TAE COME OFF FIRST...

SHWUP

BAD ENOUGH THAT HE STEALS BODIES, BUT PROTEUS CAN ALSO WARP THINGS WITH HIS M.ND FLESH, BONE, STEEL... NOTHING W THSTANDS HIM.

HEY!

ZARK

ZARK

ZARK

ZARK

OCH, HOW COULD I FORGET THE MAESTRO'S WORTHLESS PALACE GUARDS?

KEEP FIRING! BACK HIM AWAY FROM THE BOSS!

I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR THEM...

...GUNS AREN'T MUCH GOOD WHEN THE LAWS OF PHYSICS GET TURNED AGAINST YOU.

GYAHH!

AIEEE!

NOW, ABOUT THOSE *SLEEVES.*

SHWUP

SHWUP

THIS...CAN'T HAPPEN...TO *ME...!*

WE'VE ONLY FOUND ONE WAY TO STOP PROTEUS'S REALITY-WARP, BUT IT'S A *DOOZY...*

LONG-SHOT!

PROTEUS, I CANNOT ALLOW THIS.

AN' WHAT'S TAE KEEP ME FROM JUST SMASHIN' YE?

THAT'D BE ME!

I'M PRAYING HE USED UP MOST OF HIS HULK-STRENGTH, OR THIS'LL BE A VERY *SHORT* FIGHT.

YE *LOOK* TOUGH ENOUGH, MORPH, BUT IT'S ALL FOR SHOW, ENNIT?

THROOM

HE'S TRYING TO TURN ME INSIDE OUT. FEELS SICK--LIKE *MAGGOTS* IN MY VEINS.

Y'KNOW, IF I *HAD* VEINS...

KRAK

FOR A GUY WHO WEIGHS EIGHTY POUNDS, THAT LONGSHOT IS *FEARLESS*.

UP THIS CLOSE, HE *CANCELS OUT* THE REALITY-WHAMMY.

FINE! IF I CANNAE BEAT YUIR LUCK-POWER--

--I'LL JUST TAKE IT FOR MYSELF!

AGHH!

DO ALL OF YE HAVE THOSE BLEEDIN' METAL IMPLANTS?!

HE'S HURT... VULNERABLE...IF I CAN JUST--

GRAHHH!

PASH

SPLAT

PING

TINK

NO, NO, NO.

GOTTA THINK FAST--

--PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND--

SMASH

MORPH? IS THAT YOU...?

=HEH=

HEH-HA-HA

HA-HA-HA-

THIS IS SOO MUCH BETTER'N WHAT I CAME FOR!

MOST BODIES START WASTIN' AWAY THE MOMENT I JUMP IN, BUT THIS ONE FEELS DIFFERENT...

AND, LOOK! I CAN BE KEVIN MACTAGGERT AGAIN!

D'YE KNOW HOW MANY YEARS IT'S BEEN SINCE I'VE SEEN MY OWN FACE?!

WHO'D'VE THOUGHT MORPH WAS THE GLASS SLIPPER I'VE BEEN SEARCHIN' FOR?

I CAN BE ANYONE...

...PREY ON ANYONE...

...AND NEVER GET CAUGHT!

GET OUT OF HIM!

I THINK NOT, LONGSHOT.

I'D SAY THIS ONE'S A KEEPER.

IT'S YUIR LUCKY DAY, MAESTRO, I'LL NOT BE NEEDIN' YE AFTER ALL!

I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TAE BE AN' PEOPLE TAE DO...

VOORRRRP--*

NO...

THIS... SHOULD'VE *WORKED*...THE PLAN WAS SOUND...

...WE HAD A STRONG ALLY... THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE...

WE'RE EXILES, PRINCESS. *NOTHIN'* GOES ACCORDIN' TO PLAN.

GET *OUT* OF MY HOUSE AND PRAY YOU *NEVER* MEET ME AGAIN!

YOU SOUNDED LIKE YOU *MEANT* THAT, PUP.

WHY *WOULDN'T* I, VICTOR?

SHUT UP, MAESTRO, BEFORE I BLINK YOUR FAMILY JEWELS TO THE *MOON*.

PROTEUS HAS TAKEN *TWO* OF US NOW! I SWEAR TO YOU, NEXT TIME IT'S HIM OR *ME*.

NEXT:

THE FINAL STOP OF "WORLD TOUR"!